



**CARDD**  
**MEPA ROUTING MEMO**

To: Mark Bostrom  
Through: Demi Blythe  
From: David Larson

Re: Emergency Grant No MEPA Decision Notice  
Project Sponsor: High Line Canal Company  
Name of Project: High Line Canal Company – Canal Slough and Breach  
Agreement No: RRG-22-1792

**Memo:**

DNRC can issue a No MEPA Decision Notice for the High Line Canal Company emergency grant (attached). The project can be classified as emergency action under 'Emergencies' ARM 36.2.53. **SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

\_\_\_/s/DEB\_\_\_ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

\_\_\_<sup>DS</sup>  
[Signature]\_\_\_

Bureau Chief Review

Division Administrator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Post for \_30\_ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

\_\_\_\_\_ File

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

**STATE OF MONTANA**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO  
EMERGENCIES**

High Line Canal Company – Canal Slough & Breach  
July 13, 2021 (Date of Application Approval)  
Gallatin County  
Emergency Action  
45.612512, -111.232944  
Gallatin Gateway

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

The High Line Canal Company operates an irrigation water delivery that dates to 1889 when it was part of the West Gallatin Irrigation Company. The High Line Canal diversion point is approximately 3.25 miles south of Gallatin Gateway on the west side of the Gallatin River. The Canal is 29 miles long and runs a northerly direction. There are 43 water users on the Canal. Due to the late dates of priority, the water rights are considered "flood rights" and water supply is shut-off no later than July 15th each year.

The canal runs high above a county road along the contour of a hillside. In the evening of June 17, 2021, a roughly 50 to 60-foot section of the lower canal bank just west of Gallatin Gateway sloughed and breached the canal bank. The breach sent a large amount of water down the hill creating a large gully wash that overtopped a County road, flooded fields, and left large amounts of sediment and large rock strewn about.

Immediately a contractor was hired to rebuild the canal breach area. Local material mixed with bentonite was used to repair the canal banks and a plastic liner laid through the breach area. The contractor filled the wash-out that was created down the hillside and cleaned up the sediment and large rock that washed into the fields across the road.

Repairs to the canal started June 17<sup>th</sup>, lasted for 16 days, and was completed July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The irrigators had 12 days left to irrigate for the year.

The DNRC was contacted about the breach June 18, 2021 and was approved on July 13th for funding by the Emergency Grant Program.

Explanation of the decision(s) that was made regarding the proposed action: The DNRC approved the Emergency Grant for the High Line Canal Company, sponsored by the Gallatin County Conservation District, to help offset the cost of the canal repairs and cleanup associated with the breach.

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

**EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539)**

☒ The project is classified as an emergency action. The agency may take or permit action having a significant impact on the quality of the human environment in an emergency situation without preparing an EIS. Within 30 days following initiation of the action, the agency shall notify the governor and the EQC as to the need for the action and the impacts and results of it. Emergency actions must be limited to those actions immediately necessary to control the impacts of the emergency.

The project listed above meets the definition of Emergencies.

<b>Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> David C Larson	<b>Date:</b> July 21, 2021
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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARDD Administrator
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 7/26/2021 Mark W Bostrom

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